



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 18 2009

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator
150 1st Avenue, NE, Suite 325
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for your letter of September 1, 2009 regarding how the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) disseminates information to the public about air pollution emissions from coal-fired power plants. EPA offers many avenues for the public to obtain information about air pollution from large and small facilities, including emissions of toxic and traditional pollutants. We also share information about levels of air pollution in the outdoor air through our AirNow.gov Web site.

EPA is dedicated to making environmental information accessible and of high quality. EPA's Office of Environmental Information (OEI; <http://www.epa.gov/oei/>), manages the life cycle of information to support EPA's goals of protecting human health and the environment. OEI is the Agency's focal point for collecting, managing, providing, and safeguarding environmental information. OEI works in collaboration with our partners and customers to develop policies to ensure that information is more efficiently and accurately collected. OEI maintains a number of programs towards this end, including:

Central Data Exchange: The Central Data Exchange (CDX) enables fast, efficient, secure and more accurate environmental data submissions from state and local governments, industry and tribes to EPA and participating program offices.

Environmental Information Exchange Network and Grants Program: The Exchange Network electronically collects accurate information, integrates information from across state, tribal, and territorial partners, and provides secure access to information in a timely manner.

Facility Registry System (FRS): This central database links and integrates all place-oriented records to allow for more complete public access, comprehensive data integration, and accurate mapping of the facilities regulated by EPA.

Further, OEI serves as the Agency focal point for improving access to environmental information for external and internal users. OEI develops and provides access to powerful analytical tools to empower EPA and the American public to make informed decisions about protecting human health and the environment. In addition, OEI provides the necessary technology infrastructure to support EPA's public Web sites. As a part of this service, OEI is responsible for the organization, search services, and navigational aids to ensure that customers are able to find and use the Agency's information holdings.

Among the sources of information related to air pollution emissions from coal-fired power plants and the EPA programs to reduce these emissions, the following Web sites may be of interest:

Air Quality Trends Web site - www.epa.gov/airtrends/

Toxics Release Inventory Web site: www.epa.gov/TRI

Acid Rain Web site: www.epa.gov/airmarkt/emissions/index.html

Clean Air Act Operating permits - www.epa.gov/air/oaqps/permits/

National Emissions Inventory Web site - www.epa.gov/ttnchie1/net/neiwhatis.html

If you have constituents who are interested in this information but do not have internet access, EPA is ready to provide information in hard copy as well.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact David Piantanida, in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-8318.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda A. Travers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line extending from the end of the name.

Linda A. Travers
Acting Assistant Administrator
and Chief Information Officer